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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Steven Ssenabulya **Nkayivu** (Uganda)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 37th, 49th and 51st meetings, on 5 May and 5 and 13 June 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/62/SR.37, 49 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/632);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the Strategic Military Cell (A/62/744);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/751);

(d) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/62/781/Add.5).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47

4. At the 49th meeting, on 5 June, the representative of Sweden informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on this item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/62/L.47).

6. At the 51st meeting, on 13 June, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, after the date "30 June 2006", the word "and" was added and the phrase "and 62/___" was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 13, after "60/266", the word "and" was added and the phrase "and 62/___" was deleted.

7. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of information consultations, proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, which was read out by the Secretary, by which three new paragraphs would be added after paragraph 22, as follows:

> "23. *Also decides* to maintain a D-2 post for the leadership of the Strategic Military Cell and a General Service post;
>
> "24. *Further decides* that the target date of the termination of the Strategic Military Cell shall be no later than 30 June 2010;
>
> "25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assess whether the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs approved in its resolution 62/___ (see A/C.5/62/L.57) has provided sufficient capacity and capability to meet the target date referred to above for the termination of the Strategic Military Cell and to report thereon in the context of the comprehensive report requested in its resolution 62/___ (see A/C.5/62/L.57);"

and the subsequent paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

8. At the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of the draft resolution. A recorded vote was also requested on the draft resolution as a whole.

9. At the same meeting, before the vote, the representative of Nicaragua spoke on a point of order (see A/C.5/62/SR.51).

10. Also at the same meeting, statements were made before the vote by the representatives of the United States of America, Israel and Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.5/62/SR.51).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47 as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 were retained by a recorded vote of 74 to 4, with 45 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[1,2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 124 to 2, with 1 abstention (see para. 14). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand,

[1] The delegation of El Salvador subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

[2] The delegation of Ukraine subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have abstained.

Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia.

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Lebanon, Israel, Australia and Canada (see A/C.5/62/SR.51).

13. A statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Lebanon (see A/C.5/62/SR.51).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

14. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon,[1] the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review of the Strategic Military Cell[2] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1773 (2007) of 24 August 2007, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2008,

Recalling also its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 61/250 C of 29 June 2007,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007 and 61/250 C,

Reaffirming also the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the financial resources necessary to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, as well as other relevant resolutions;

[1] A/62/632 and A/62/751.
[2] A/62/744.
[3] A/62/781/Add.5.

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Force as at 31 March 2008, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 144.9 million United States dollars, representing some 3 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only seventy-four Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B and 61/250 C;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B and 61/250 C;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

12. *Takes note* of paragraph 38 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

15. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the

Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

16. *Notes* the significant projected underexpenditure for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as indicated in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General, to the extent possible, to take measures to improve budget forecasting with respect to the Force, bearing in mind the unpredictable nature of peacekeeping operations;

17. *Recalls* paragraph 1 of section XXI of its resolution 61/276, and welcomes the cooperation among the missions in the region and the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard;

18. *Notes with concern* the high vacancy rate among international and national staff of the Force, and decides to apply a vacancy factor of 14 per cent for international staff and 15 per cent for national staff;

19. *Notes* paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report of the Advisory Committee, and decides to apply a delayed deployment factor of 8 per cent to the cost estimates for military contingents;

20. *Requests* the Secretary General to keep the requirements for the Force under constant review and to report thereon in the context of his future budget proposals;

21. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of its resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of its resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of its resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of its resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of its resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of its resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of its resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of its resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of its resolution 61/250 B and paragraph 20 of its resolution 61/250 C, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

22. *Decides* to approve the post of Chief of the Joint Mission Analysis Cell (P-5) and the post of Associate Political Affairs Officer (P-2) in the Office of Political and Civil Affairs;

23. *Also decides* to maintain a D-2 post for the leadership of the Strategic Military Cell and a General Service post;

24. *Further decides* that the target date of the termination of the Strategic Military Cell shall be no later than 30 June 2010;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assess whether the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs approved in its resolution 62/___[4] has provided sufficient capacity and capability to meet the target date referred to above for the termination of the Strategic Military Cell and to report thereon in the context of the comprehensive report requested in its resolution 62/___;[4]

[4] See A/C.5/62/L.57.

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

26. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007;[5]

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

27. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 680,932,600 dollars for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, inclusive of 650,755,600 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 26,306,200 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 3,870,800 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation for the period

28. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 113,488,767 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

29. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 28 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of 2,312,883 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,840,633 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 421,267 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 50,983 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

30. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 567,443,833 dollars for the period from 1 September 2008 to 30 June 2009 at a monthly rate of 56,744,383 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008 and 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

31. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 30 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 11,564,417 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,203,167 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 2,106,333 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 254,917 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

32. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 28 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 8,252,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, in accordance with the levels updated in

[5] A/62/632.

General Assembly resolution 61/243, taking into account the scale of assessments for 2007, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

33. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 8,252,700 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 32 above;

34. *Also decides* that the decrease of 370,300 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2007 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 8,252,700 dollars referred to in paragraphs 32 and 33 above;

35. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

36. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

37. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".